

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1064L.011

1 **Whereas**, telecommunications services and energy services and sources are vital to the
2 economic vitality and well-being of the state of Missouri; and
3

4 **Whereas**, the nationwide trend toward deregulation of telecommunications services and
5 energy services and sources has created competitive markets and made available new services and
6 customer choices; and
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8 **Whereas**, the state and political subdivisions have imposed taxes, fees and other
9 assessments on various telecommunications and energy services which vary widely based on locality
10 and, within a locality, may vary widely due to increasingly related and competitive services, such as
11 telephone and cable television; and
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13 **Whereas**, the current nationwide trend toward competition in the production, distribution
14 and sale of energy, including electricity, natural gas and other energy sources has potential benefits and
15 adverse effects on energy producers, distributors, retailers, customers and the citizens of this state; and
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17 **Whereas**, ensuring adequate and affordable telecommunications services and energy
18 services and sources necessitate a fair and equitable tax structure across different telecommunications
19 and energy services and across different regions of the state; and
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21 **Whereas**, the issue of whether governmental entities should expend public resources to
22 compete with private telecommunications and energy entities should be explored; and
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24 **Whereas**, a Joint Interim Committee on Telecommunications and Energy has studied the
25 above-mentioned issues during the tenure of the Ninetieth General Assembly and recommends that a
26 similar study committee be established to continue the study during the tenure of the Ninety-first General

27 Assembly:

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29 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** by the members of the House of Representatives
30 of the Ninety-first General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, that a joint
31 legislative study committee of the General Assembly be created to be composed of seven members of
32 the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and seven
33 members of the Senate, to be appointed jointly by the President Pro Tem and Co-Pro Tem of the Senate,
34 and that said committee be authorized to function throughout the Ninety-first General Assembly; and
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36 **Be it further resolved** that said committee continue and expand the in-depth studies
37 conducted by prior Joint Interim Committees on Telecommunications and Energy and make appropriate
38 recommendations concerning financial, legal, social, taxation, environmental, technological and
39 economic issues of telecommunications, cable television, all Internet services, including asymmetrical
40 digital subscriber lines (ADSL) and service via cable lines, and energy services taxation, competition
41 between governmental entities and private telecommunication entities, and any other issues the
42 committee deems relevant; and
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44 **Be it further resolved** that said committee continue and expand the in-depth studies
45 conducted by prior Joint Interim Committees on Telecommunications and Energy and make appropriate
46 recommendations concerning financial, legal, social, taxation, environmental, technological and
47 economic issues of deregulation and increasing competition in energy production, distribution and sale,
48 including consideration of the effects on residential customers, small and large business customers,
49 utility shareholders and other stakeholders, and any other issues the committee deems relevant; and
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51 **Be it further resolved** that said committee prepare an interim report, together with
52 its recommendations for any legislative action it deems necessary for submission to the General
53 Assembly prior to the commencement of the Second Regular Session of the Ninety-first General
54 Assembly and a final report, together with its recommendations for any legislative action it deems
55 necessary for submission to the General Assembly prior to the commencement of the First Regular
56 Session of the Ninety-second General Assembly; and
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58 **Be it further resolved** that said committee may solicit any input and information
59 necessary to fulfill its obligations from the Missouri Public Service Commission, the Department of
60 Economic Development, the Division of Energy within the Department of Natural Resources, the Office
61 of Public Counsel, political subdivisions of this state, telecommunications and energy service providers,

62 energy utilities and representatives of all telecommunications and energy customer groups; and
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64 **Be it further resolved** that House Research, the Committee on Legislative
65 Research, and Senate Research shall provide such legal, research, clerical, technical and bill drafting
66 services as the committee may require in the performance of its duties; and
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68 **Be it further resolved** that the actual and necessary expenses of the committee, its
69 members and any staff personnel assigned to the committee incurred in attending meetings of the
70 committee or any subcommittee thereof shall be paid from the Joint Contingent Fund.